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# JOB VACANCIES AND OVERTIME, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1992

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### Job vacancies:

The estimated number of vacancies at 21 August 1992 (on a seasonally adjusted basis) was 27,500, a 10.9 per cent increase from May 1992 and a 9.4 per cent increase from August 1991.

In original terms, August 1992 vacancies were estimated at 28,000, a rise of 15.3 per cent from May 1992. There were 20,100 private sector vacancies recorded in August 1992, a rise of 29.3 per cent from May 1992. In the same period, public sector vacancies fell by 9.5 per cent to 7,900.

The job vacancy rate for Australia rose to 0.49 per cent from 0.42 per cent for May 1992, and 0.44 per cent for August 1991. The present rate is the highest since February 1991 (0.52%).

The increase in the job vacancy rate in New South Wales, from 0.33 per cent in May 1992 to 0.49 per cent in August 1992, was statistically significant.

### Overtime:

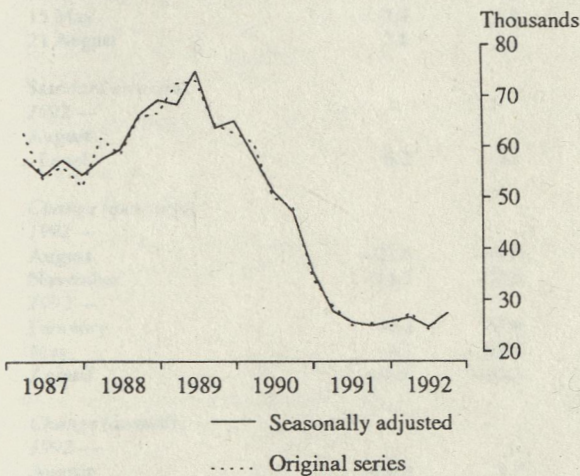
On a seasonally adjusted basis, estimated average weekly overtime hours per employee in August 1992 was 1.11 hours, little changed from May 1992 (1.10 hours) and the same as that recorded for August 1991.

In original terms, estimated average weekly overtime was 1.07 hours per employee, compared with 1.09 hours in May 1992. The Australian Capital Territory showed the largest decrease (33.3%).

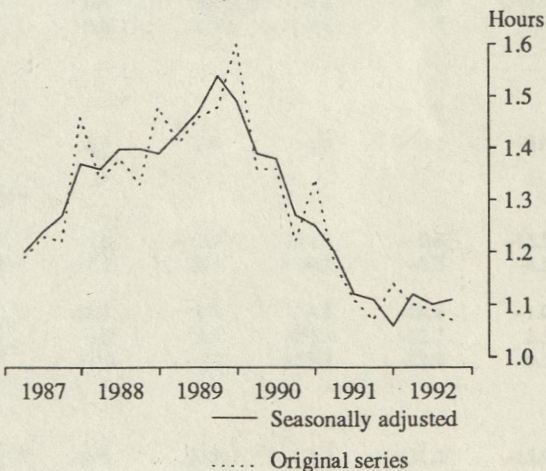
For employees working overtime, the estimated average weekly overtime was 6.91 hours per employee in August 1992 (seasonally adjusted), a decrease of 1.3 per cent from May 1992 (7.00 hours) and a decrease of 1.2 per cent from August 1992.

Average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime in August 1992 was 6.75 hours, in original terms, a decrease of 2.8 per cent on the May 1992 estimate. In the Australian Capital Territory there was a decrease of 31.2 per cent.

JOB VACANCIES, AUSTRALIA



AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE, AUSTRALIA

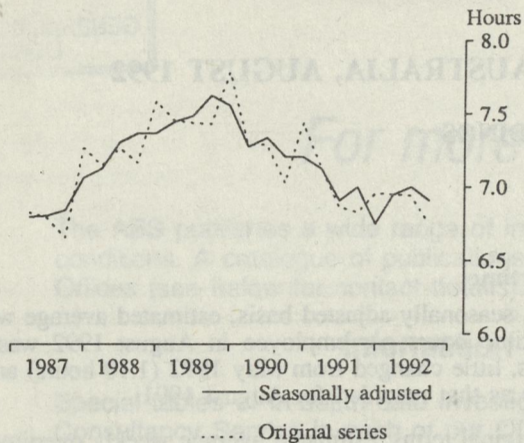


### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Ben Isaacs on Canberra (06) 252 5946 or Ann Soutar on Perth (09) 323 5304.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.



# AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE WORKING OVERTIME, AUSTRALIA



The seasonally adjusted estimate of the proportion of employees working overtime in August 1992, was 16.04 per cent, up from 15.70 per cent in May 1992, but little changed from August 1991.

## NOTE

The statistics of Job Vacancies and Overtime are compiled from data obtained from a sample survey of employers. Refer to paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes (page 9) for information regarding the sampling frame used by this survey.

The survey sample has been redesigned this quarter to reflect changes in the register of businesses, from which the sample is selected. See paragraphs 3 and 8 of the Explanatory Notes (page 9).

**IAN CASTLES**  
Australian Statistician

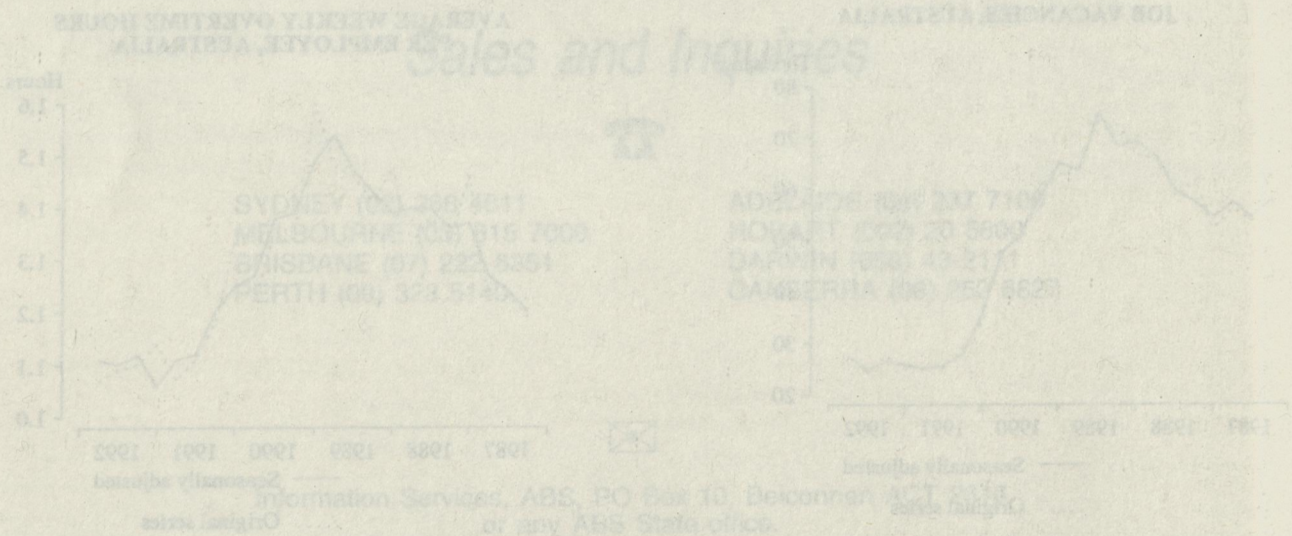




TABLE 1. TOTAL JOB VACANCIES : PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS, STATES AND TERRITORIES

	Original series								
Reference date	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
PRIVATE SECTOR									
— '000 —									
1991—									
17 May	5.7	* 2.5	* 3.1	* 0.9	* 1.5	* 0.3	* 0.1	* 0.4	14.4
16 August	7.1	* 3.0	* 3.1	* 1.4	0.9	* 0.2	* 0.3	* 0.2	16.2
15 November	4.6	* 4.3	* 3.4	* 1.2	* 1.7	0.4	* 0.3	* 0.4	16.3
1992—									
21 February	7.4	5.4	* 3.7	* 1.0	* 0.7	* 0.3	* 0.3	* 0.2	19.1
15 May	3.4	* 3.9	* 3.6	1.0	* 2.6	* 0.3	* 0.1	* 0.5	15.6
21 August	6.5	5.3	3.6	1.1	* 2.4	* 0.4	* 0.4	* 0.3	20.1
Standard errors(a)									
1992 —									
August									
Level	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.3
Change (quarterly)									
— per cent —									
1991 —									
August	25.6	20.6	0.6	59.7	-39.6	-40.3	206.7	-48.5	12.6
November	-35.7	42.6	9.5	-8.8	88.9	86.0	10.5	108.0	0.7
1992 —									
February	61.9	25.5	8.8	-21.8	-58.2	-5.2	-18.3	-40.2	16.8
May	-54.4	-27.5	-1.1	7.1	272.6	-9.1	-51.2	112.2	-18.3
August	92.0	35.3	-0.1	9.8	-10.0	33.4	222.6	-38.3	29.3
Change (annual)									
1992 —									
August	-8.8	75.4	17.7	-16.2	164.7	113.8	42.2	62.9	24.3
PUBLIC SECTOR									
— '000 —									
1991—									
17 May	4.8	1.3	1.3	* 0.6	0.7	0.4	0.2	1.5	10.8
16 August	3.8	1.1	1.6	* 0.6	0.6	0.4	0.1	1.3	9.4
15 November	3.2	0.9	1.5	* 0.8	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.2	8.6
1992—									
21 February	3.2	1.2	1.6	* 0.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.9	8.5
15 May	3.1	1.8	1.4	* 0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.8	8.7
21 August	2.8	1.2	1.0	* 0.7	0.8	0.3	0.1	1.0	7.9
Standard errors(a)									
1992 —									
August									
Level	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6
Change (quarterly)									
— per cent —									
1991 —									
August	-21.6	-19.0	18.8	-3.8	-2.8	-10.7	-14.7	-13.6	-12.5
November	-14.7	-16.5	-4.0	40.4	-11.2	-30.3	-20.1	-2.3	-8.5
1992 —									
February	-0.2	37.8	8.8	-36.7	14.3	0.6	-24.2	-24.6	-1.0
May	-3.1	49.6	-12.4	-22.6	-6.9	16.1	170.1	-12.7	2.5
August	-10.6	-36.3	-32.9	85.0	33.9	-2.2	-36.7	22.4	-9.5
Change (annual)									
1992 —									
August	-26.3	9.7	-38.6	27.2	26.6	-20.5	3.6	-21.2	-15.9

See footnotes at end of table.



TABLE 1. TOTAL JOB VACANCIES : PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS, STATES AND TERRITORIES—continued

Reference date	Original series									Seasonally adjusted series
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia	Aust.
TOTAL										
— '000 —										
1991—										
17 May	10.5	3.8	4.4	* 1.5	2.1	0.7	0.3	1.8	25.1	25.7
16 August	10.9	4.1	4.6	* 2.0	1.5	0.6	* 0.5	1.5	25.6	25.1
15 November	7.8	5.2	4.9	* 2.1	2.3	0.6	* 0.5	1.6	24.9	25.8
1992—										
21 February	10.6	6.7	5.3	1.5	1.4	0.6	* 0.4	1.2	27.6	26.6
15 May	6.5	5.8	5.1	1.4	3.2	0.6	0.4	1.3	24.3	24.8
21 August	9.3	6.5	4.6	* 1.9	* 3.2	* 0.7	* 0.6	1.3	28.0	27.5
Standard errors(a)										
1992 —										
August										
Level	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.4	(b)
Change (quarterly)										
— per cent —										
1991 —										
August	4.0	7.0	6.1	33.1	-28.3	-23.6	69.0	-20.6	1.9	-2.1
November	-28.4	27.2	5.0	6.0	47.3	9.5	0.9	11.9	-2.6	2.8
1992 —										
February	36.3	27.6	8.8	-27.8	-40.0	-2.8	-19.8	-28.3	10.7	3.1
May	-38.9	-13.3	-4.6	-3.3	139.0	1.8	0.8	12.3	-11.9	-6.9
August	42.9	12.5	-9.4	30.9	-1.8	15.8	59.4	-0.5	15.3	10.9
Change (annual)										
1992 —										
August	-14.8	58.3	-1.3	-3.1	107.3	25.5	30.1	-10.4	9.5	9.4

(a) See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 12 of the Explanatory Notes.



**TABLE 2. JOB VACANCY RATES, STATES AND TERRITORIES**  
(per cent)

Reference date	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<i>1991—</i>									
17 May	0.51	0.24	0.52	* 0.30	0.43	0.44	0.46	1.43	0.43
16 August	0.54	0.25	0.52	* 0.41	0.31	0.36	* 0.75	1.26	0.44
15 November	0.39	0.32	0.53	* 0.42	0.43	0.40	* 0.73	1.38	0.42
<i>1992—</i>									
21 February	0.53	0.41	0.57	* 0.31	0.25	0.41	* 0.63	0.94	0.46
15 May	0.33	0.36	0.56	0.30	0.61	0.41	0.65	1.03	0.42
21 August	0.49	0.41	0.47	* 0.41	* 0.62	* 0.49	* 1.02	1.03	0.49
<i>Standard errors(a)</i>									
<i>1992 —</i>									
August									
Level	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.18	0.14	0.39	0.19	0.04
<i>Change (quarterly)</i>									
<i>1991 —</i>									
August	5.1	6.1	0.2	39.4	-28.0	-17.1	62.6	-12.0	2.0
November	-27.5	28.0	2.2	1.6	41.6	11.9	-2.9	9.9	-3.1
<i>1992 —</i>									
February	37.1	27.4	7.1	-27.4	-42.7	0.9	-14.1	-32.4	10.2
May	-38.5	-12.1	-1.0	-3.3	144.7	1.0	2.5	10.6	-10.7
August	48.0	14.3	-15.2	39.2	2.1	18.5	57.7	-0.8	17.0
<i>Change (annual)</i>									
<i>1992 —</i>									
August	-9.6	63.9	-8.2	-0.7	102.6	35.3	34.9	-18.6	11.5

(a) See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 3. JOB VACANCIES : INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA**  
(\*000)

Industry	Reference date						Standard error(a)
	1991			1992			
	17 May	16 Aug	15 Nov.	21 Feb.	15 May	21 Aug.	
Manufacturing —	3.4	3.0	* 3.3	2.5	3.3	3.4	0.4
Basic and fabricated metal products, other machinery and equipment, transport equipment	* 1.3	0.7	1.0	* 1.0	0.8	1.1	0.2
Other manufacturing	2.0	* 2.3	* 2.3	1.5	2.5	2.3	0.4
Non-Manufacturing —							
Electricity, gas and water	* 0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	* 0.2	0.1	0.0
Wholesale and retail trade	5.3	5.2	5.3	4.0	4.4	7.3	1.5
Transport and storage; Communication	0.3	* 0.8	* 1.0	* 1.9	* 0.7	0.5	0.1
Public administration and defence(b)	2.9	3.2	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.4	0.5
Community services	7.8	7.0	6.4	8.2	7.6	9.2	1.4
Other(c)	5.1	6.2	6.2	8.3	5.7	5.1	0.9
Total all industries	25.1	25.6	24.9	27.6	24.3	28.0	2.4

(a) Relates only to latest level estimate. See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Excludes permanent defence forces. (c) Comprises Mining, Construction, Finance, property and business services and Recreation, personal and other services.



TABLE 4. OVERTIME : STATES AND TERRITORIES

Reference period - pay period ending on or before	Original series									Seasonally adjusted series
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia	Aust.
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE										
	— hours —									
1991—										
17 May	1.09	1.04	1.10	0.99	1.53	1.05	1.23	1.01	1.11	1.12
16 August	1.09	1.04	1.03	0.82	1.40	1.00	1.26	0.99	1.07	1.11
15 November	1.12	1.13	1.07	0.96	1.57	1.04	1.13	0.99	1.14	1.06
1992—										
21 February	1.17	1.02	1.08	0.85	1.41	1.15	1.11	0.76	1.10	1.12
15 May	1.12	1.05	0.99	0.87	1.46	1.00	1.32	1.09	1.09	1.10
21 August	1.13	1.05	0.97	0.88	1.30	0.90	* 1.50	0.73	1.07	1.11
Standard errors(a)										
1992 —										
August										
Level	0.06	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.12	0.07	0.46	0.09	0.04	(b)
Change (quarterly)	— per cent —									
1991 —										
August	-0.1	0.1	-6.5	-16.9	-8.2	-5.0	3.0	-1.6	-3.2	-1.0
November	2.4	8.1	4.0	16.8	11.7	4.3	-10.7	0.3	6.0	-4.7
1992 —										
February	5.1	-9.6	0.9	-11.8	-10.4	10.7	-1.6	-23.4	-3.0	5.7
May	-5.0	3.0	-8.7	2.5	3.8	-13.5	19.3	43.7	-1.3	-1.5
August	0.9	0.0	-1.5	1.8	-11.0	-9.4	13.6	-33.3	-2.0	0.1
Change (annual)										
1992 —										
August	3.1	0.7	-5.6	7.6	-7.5	-9.5	19.1	-26.4	-0.6	-0.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE WORKING OVERTIME										
	— hours —									
1991—										
17 May	6.68	6.65	6.58	6.50	9.02	6.45	8.18	6.50	6.86	6.91
16 August	6.81	6.77	6.54	5.81	8.33	6.82	7.27	6.63	6.83	7.00
15 November	6.76	7.03	6.26	6.86	8.79	6.77	7.44	6.72	6.96	6.75
1992—										
21 February	7.23	6.82	6.60	5.36	8.42	7.01	6.78	6.08	6.95	6.95
15 May	7.17	6.82	6.53	5.63	7.99	6.34	7.72	8.10	6.94	7.00
21 August	7.03	6.86	6.22	5.39	7.78	5.91	8.48	5.58	6.75	6.91
Standard errors(a)										
1992 —										
August										
Level	0.16	0.31	0.23	0.21	0.47	0.54	2.00	0.44	0.12	(b)
Change (quarterly)	— per cent —									
1991 —										
August	1.9	1.8	-0.6	-10.5	-7.7	5.7	-11.1	2.0	-0.4	1.2
November	-0.7	3.9	-4.3	18.0	5.5	-0.8	2.3	1.3	2.0	-3.6
1992 —										
February	6.9	-3.1	5.4	-21.8	-4.2	3.7	-8.9	-9.4	-0.1	3.0
May	-0.8	0.1	-1.0	5.0	-5.0	-9.6	13.9	33.2	-0.1	0.8
August	-2.0	0.5	-4.8	-4.3	-2.7	-6.8	9.9	-31.2	-2.8	-1.3
Change (annual)										
1992 —										
August	3.2	1.3	-4.9	-7.3	-6.6	-13.3	16.6	-15.9	-1.2	-1.2

See footnotes at end of table.



TABLE 4. OVERTIME : STATES AND TERRITORIES—continued

Reference period - pay period ending on or before	Original series									Seasonally adjusted series
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia	Aust.
PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERTIME										
1991—										
17 May	16.35	15.67	16.77	15.19	16.96	16.25	14.98	15.48	16.14	16.19
16 August	16.04	15.41	15.78	14.11	16.86	14.61	17.36	14.93	15.69	15.95
15 November	16.54	16.02	17.15	13.97	17.86	15.37	15.14	14.78	16.31	15.71
1992—										
21 February	16.25	14.95	16.42	15.77	16.71	16.40	16.36	12.49	15.85	16.16
15 May	15.56	15.38	15.14	15.40	18.27	15.69	17.14	13.48	15.65	15.70
21 August	16.02	15.31	15.66	16.37	16.71	15.25	17.72	13.06	15.79	16.04
Standard errors(a)										
1992 —										
August										
Level	0.77	0.86	0.97	1.02	0.99	1.91	2.10	1.04	0.41	(b)
Change (quarterly)										
1991 —										
August	-1.9	-1.7	-5.9	-7.1	-0.6	-10.1	15.9	-3.5	-2.8	-1.5
November	3.1	4.0	8.7	-1.0	5.9	5.2	-12.8	-1.0	4.0	-1.5
1992 —										
February	-1.8	-6.7	-4.2	12.8	-6.4	6.8	8.0	-15.5	-2.9	2.9
May	-4.2	2.9	-7.8	-2.3	9.3	-4.4	4.8	7.9	-1.2	-2.9
August	2.9	-0.5	3.4	6.3	-8.5	-2.8	3.4	-3.1	0.8	2.2
Change (annual)										
1992 —										
August	-0.1	-0.6	-0.8	16.0	-0.9	4.4	2.1	-12.6	0.6	0.6

(a) See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 12 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 5. AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE : MANUFACTURING

Reference period - pay period ending on or before	Original series									Seasonally adjusted series
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia	Aust.
— hours —										
1991—										
17 May	2.73	2.49	2.01	1.51	* 2.28	1.53	2.20	2.15	2.36	2.41
16 August	2.80	2.37	2.25	1.68	2.03	1.94	2.48	2.72	2.38	2.51
15 November	2.91	2.48	2.30	2.36	2.83	1.81	1.59	3.31	2.59	2.39
1992—										
21 February	2.94	2.20	2.41	1.99	2.35	1.85	2.37	1.53	2.45	2.49
15 May	3.13	2.42	2.24	2.02	2.25	1.76	3.03	1.61	2.56	2.62
21 August	2.73	2.17	2.53	2.32	1.77	1.72	2.27	1.68	2.38	2.51
Standard errors(a)										
1992 —										
August										
Level	0.21	0.16	0.18	0.29	0.15	0.25	0.13	0.35	0.10	(b)
Change (quarterly)										
1991 —										
August	2.4	-4.6	11.6	11.4	-11.0	26.6	12.3	26.5	0.9	4.1
November	3.7	4.5	2.4	40.3	39.0	-6.7	-36.0	21.7	8.8	-5.1
1992 —										
February	1.1	-11.1	4.7	-15.8	-16.9	2.0	49.6	-53.7	-5.4	4.2
May	6.7	9.8	-6.9	1.5	-4.0	-4.9	27.6	4.9	4.6	5.5
August	-12.8	-10.4	12.9	14.8	-21.6	-2.2	-25.0	4.5	-7.1	-4.3
Change (annual)										
1992 —										
August	-2.4	-8.6	12.8	37.7	-13.1	-11.4	-8.3	-38.3	-0.1	-0.1

(a) See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 12 of the Explanatory Notes.



TABLE 6. OVERTIME : INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA

	Reference period - pay period ending on or before						Standard error(a)
Industry	1991			1992			
	17 May	16 Aug	15 Nov.	21 Feb.	15 May	21 Aug.	
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE							
Mining	6.14	5.79	5.44	4.21	4.96	4.95	0.59
Manufacturing	2.36	2.38	2.59	2.45	2.56	2.38	0.10
Food, beverages and tobacco	2.41	2.50	2.64	2.64	2.54	2.65	0.20
Textiles; Clothing and footwear	2.13	1.45	1.91	1.32	1.42	1.35	0.20
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	1.58	1.45	1.85	1.30	1.29	1.36	0.21
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	3.21	3.04	2.52	2.35	2.42	2.15	0.20
Basic metal products	3.95	4.00	3.80	4.31	4.61	4.33	0.34
Fabricated metal products; Other machinery and equipment	2.37	2.54	2.35	2.35	2.33	2.16	0.20
Transport equipment	1.83	1.80	1.94	2.02	2.41	2.48	0.18
Other manufacturing	2.21	2.40	3.46	3.12	3.59	2.94	0.37
Electricity, gas and water	1.83	1.64	1.62	1.90	1.84	1.71	0.03
Construction	2.42	1.57	2.08	2.23	* 1.90	1.80	0.28
Wholesale trade	1.05	1.17	1.40	1.25	1.01	1.23	0.14
Retail trade	0.61	0.63	0.64	0.54	0.56	0.59	0.05
Transport and storage; Communication	2.03	1.96	1.89	2.08	2.20	2.21	0.14
Public administration and defence(b)	0.79	0.59	0.80	0.72	0.91	0.64	0.10
Community services	0.42	0.39	0.37	0.40	0.41	0.34	0.01
Other(c)	0.37	0.49	0.37	0.40	0.35	0.48	0.11
All industries	1.11	1.07	1.14	1.10	1.09	1.07	0.04
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE WORKING OVERTIME							
Mining	11.60	10.89	10.89	10.31	9.97	10.43	0.88
Manufacturing	7.71	7.65	7.93	7.78	7.97	7.88	0.17
Food, beverages and tobacco	7.20	7.02	7.48	7.49	7.05	7.20	0.38
Textiles; Clothing and footwear	9.20	7.31	7.77	7.85	7.12	7.85	0.74
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	6.91	6.28	7.33	6.52	5.66	6.23	0.47
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	9.88	8.98	8.16	7.86	9.25	8.56	0.45
Basic metal products	9.29	9.22	8.91	9.25	10.46	9.91	0.50
Fabricated metal products; Other machinery and equipment	7.07	7.86	7.31	7.83	8.00	7.80	0.35
Transport equipment	8.44	7.60	7.50	6.87	7.48	7.76	0.20
Other manufacturing	7.25	7.47	9.01	7.97	8.52	8.13	0.49
Electricity, gas and water	7.59	7.28	7.20	8.07	7.98	6.88	0.12
Construction	11.34	8.28	9.76	9.24	8.62	7.96	0.77
Wholesale trade	5.77	6.01	6.79	6.71	5.82	6.30	0.32
Retail trade	4.18	4.88	4.67	4.36	4.45	4.58	0.17
Transport and storage; Communication	7.54	7.69	7.05	7.98	8.23	8.55	0.29
Public administration and defence(b)	5.45	5.00	5.60	4.99	6.26	5.29	0.51
Community services	5.76	5.71	6.05	5.74	6.13	4.58	0.13
Other(c)	4.93	5.83	4.83	5.39	4.74	5.45	0.73
All industries	6.86	6.83	6.96	6.95	6.94	6.75	0.12
PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERTIME							
Mining	52.95	53.12	49.92	40.84	49.78	47.48	3.03
Manufacturing	30.63	31.14	32.69	31.52	32.16	30.24	1.06
Food, beverages and tobacco	33.44	35.62	35.25	35.18	36.05	36.72	2.31
Textiles; Clothing and footwear	23.12	19.88	24.66	16.84	19.98	17.19	2.08
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	22.89	23.04	25.25	19.92	22.84	21.81	2.10
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	32.51	33.81	30.91	29.89	26.16	25.13	1.41
Basic metal products	42.49	43.36	42.65	46.65	44.10	43.72	1.47
Fabricated metal products; Other machinery and equipment	33.56	32.35	32.16	29.98	29.07	27.74	2.20
Transport equipment	21.67	23.74	25.84	29.47	32.25	32.01	1.79
Other manufacturing	30.54	32.08	38.39	39.20	42.08	36.17	4.43
Electricity, gas and water	24.14	22.53	22.45	23.60	23.07	24.88	0.51
Construction	21.30	18.95	21.32	24.17	22.08	22.62	2.55
Wholesale trade	18.26	19.44	20.57	18.59	17.38	19.54	2.16
Retail trade	14.59	12.96	13.75	12.32	12.69	12.81	1.09
Transport and storage; Communication	26.95	25.51	26.77	26.07	26.79	25.81	1.36
Public administration and defence(b)	14.44	11.89	14.26	14.43	14.49	12.06	1.24
Community services	7.38	6.83	6.07	6.96	6.68	7.48	0.32
Other(c)	7.59	8.36	7.71	7.41	7.34	8.78	0.99
All industries	16.14	15.69	16.31	15.85	15.65	15.79	0.41

(a) Relates only to latest level estimate. See paragraphs 11 to 15 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Excludes permanent defence forces. (c) Comprises Finance, property and business services and Recreation, personal and other services.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This survey contains estimates of job vacancies and overtime for August 1992 based on information obtained from a sample survey of employers.

### Coverage adjustment

2. This survey uses as its sampling frame the ABS's register of businesses which is regularly updated to take account of new businesses and businesses ceasing operation. A major source of information on new businesses is group employer (GE) registrations with the Australian Tax Office. The ABS has developed an improved computerised system which reduces the delay in new businesses from this source being recorded on the register, and has completed an analysis to identify businesses which have been omitted from the register in the past. From the May 1991 survey these updates have been implemented. No revisions to previously published data have been made.

3. An analysis by the ABS has identified those businesses which were included on the register but had actually ceased operations. These businesses have now been removed from the population frame for this survey.

### Scope of the survey

4. All wage and salary earners who received pay for the reference period are represented in the survey, except:

- members of the Australian permanent defence forces;
- employees of enterprises primarily engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting;
- employees in private households employing staff;
- employees of overseas embassies, consulates, etc.;
- employees based outside Australia;
- employees on workers' compensation who are not paid through the payroll.

5. Also excluded are the following persons who are not regarded as employees for the purposes of this survey:

- directors who are not paid a salary;
- proprietors/partners of unincorporated businesses;
- self-employed persons such as subcontractors, owner/drivers, consultants and persons paid solely by commission without a retainer.

6. All vacancies (as defined in paragraph 4 of the Glossary) for wage and salary earners are represented in the survey, except those:

- in the Australian permanent defence forces;
- in enterprises primarily engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting;
- in private households employing staff;
- in overseas embassies, consulates, etc.;
- located outside Australia.

### Survey design

7. A sample of approximately 4,800 employers is selected from the ABS register of businesses to ensure adequate State and industry representation. The sample is updated each quarter to take account of new businesses, those which have ceased operation and structural changes such as takeovers and mergers. The statistical unit for the survey comprises all activities of an enterprise in a particular State or Territory. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise in the State or Territory. In a small number of cases where an enterprise has significant employment in more than one industry, a separate statistical unit is created for each industry. The statistical units are stratified by State, industry and size of employment and a simple random sample is selected from each stratum.

8. Changes to the sample design this quarter and the effects of improvements to the ABS register of businesses have had minor effects on the estimation of job vacancies for the private sector and at State level.

### Historical series

9. The series were introduced in November 1983. They replaced the job vacancies and overtime series based on information from a sample of employers registered to pay payroll tax and from government organisations. Estimates contained in this publication are not strictly comparable with those obtained prior to November 1983.

### Seasonal Adjustment

10. Seasonally adjusted series are published for national estimates in Tables 1, 4 and 5. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognized. Seasonal adjustment does not remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular period. Volatile or unsystematic influences may still affect the interpretation of movement in the series, even after adjustment for seasonal variation.

11. Seasonally adjusted data for periods back to November 1983 are available on request for those adjusted series contained in this publication. Seasonally adjusted estimates for the Manufacturing industry and some Mining industry series are also available on request back to November 1983. The seasonal factors used in compiling these series are revised annually to take account of each year's original data.

12. Details about the method of seasonal adjustment of these series are available from the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis, telephone (06) 252 6103.

### Reliability of estimates

13. As the estimates in this publication are based on information relating to a sample of employers rather than a full enumeration, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from



all employers. This difference, called sampling error, should not be confused with inaccuracy that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents or in processing by the ABS. Such inaccuracy is referred to as non-sampling error and may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or sample. Efforts have been made to reduce non-sampling error by careful design of questionnaires, detailed checking of returns and quality control of processing.

14. The sampling error associated with any estimate can be estimated from the sample results. One measure of sampling error is given by the standard error which indicates the degree to which an estimate may vary from the value that would have been obtained from a full enumeration (the 'true' figure). There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate differs from the true value by less than one standard error, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Seasonally adjusted estimates have a standard error similar to those applying to original series.

15. An example of the use of a standard error is as follows. If the estimated number of job vacancies was 25,000 with a standard error of 2,500, then there would be about two chances in three that a full enumeration would have given a figure in the range 22,500 to 27,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would be in the range 20,000 to 30,000.

16. Movements in estimates of job vacancies and overtime are considered to be statistically significant where they exceed two standard errors.

17. Another measure of the sampling error is the relative standard error, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate. Level estimates with a relative standard error of 25 per cent or more, denoted with an asterisk in this publication, are subject to sampling variability generally considered to be too high for most practical purposes.

#### Industry classification

18. Industry is classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) 1983 Edition, Volume 1 - The Classification (1201.0).

#### Related publications

19. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

*Information Paper: New Statistical Series: Employment, Average Weekly Earnings, Job Vacancies and Overtime* (6256.0)

*Job Vacancies, Australia* (6231.0) — issued quarterly, discontinued August 1989

*Overtime, Australia* (6330.0) — issued quarterly, discontinued August 1989

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) — issued monthly

*Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (6302.0) — issued quarterly

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0) — issued quarterly.

20. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Unpublished statistics

21. Unpublished job vacancies and overtime estimates can be made available on request for various combinations of the following variables: State/Territory, sector (public or private) and industry (broad grouping as per Table 6). It should be noted, however, that estimated lower levels of disaggregation than that published in this bulletin may be subject to sampling variability considered too high for most practical purposes. Inquiries regarding data availability and associated charges should be made to the officer whose name appears in the Inquiries box at the front of this publication.

#### Symbols and other usages

— nil or rounded to zero

\* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes (see paragraph 15 above)

22. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.



## APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

*Average hours of overtime per employee* is calculated by dividing total overtime hours paid for in a particular group by the total number of employees in the same group (including those who were not paid for any overtime).

2. *Average hours of overtime per employee working overtime* is calculated by dividing total overtime hours paid for in a particular group (e.g. industry, State or Territory) by the number of employees who were paid for overtime in the same group.

3. *Employees* refers to all wage and salary earners (as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Explanatory Notes) who received pay for any part of the reference period.

4. A *job vacancy* is a job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action had been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation. This point is particularly relevant to the Australian Public Service and the Public Services of each of the States and the Territories.

Excluded are vacancies:

- of less than one day's duration;
- to be filled by persons already hired, or by promotion or transfer of existing employees;
- to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial dispute(s);

- not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date;
- not available within the particular State or Territory to which the return relates;
- for work to be carried out under contract;
- for which no effort is being made to fill the position.

5. The *job vacancy rate* is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

6. *Overtime* is time worked in excess of award, standard or agreed hours of work for which payment is received. Excluded is any overtime for which employees would not receive payment, e.g. unpaid overtime worked by managerial, executive, etc. staff, normal shiftwork and standard hours paid for at penalty rates.

7. *Overtime hours* represent the number of hours of overtime paid for. Respondents are instructed not to convert overtime hours to their ordinary time equivalent. For example, 100 hours of overtime paid for at time and a half and 20 hours at double time would be counted as 120 hours, not 190.

8. *Reference date* for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. The reference date for the current survey is 21 August 1992.

9. *Reference period* for the survey refers to the last pay period ending on or before the reference date.

10. *Sector*. Public sector includes all local government authorities and government departments, agencies and authorities created by, or reporting to the Commonwealth and State Parliaments. All remaining employees are classified as private sector.





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